

districts, but who adds a mass of information to the natural history of a country such as Mr. Jackson has done.

With great regret I have refrained from giving a comparative table of the species of the Elgon district, such as I gave in my account of Mr. Whitehead's Kina Balu collection ('Ibis,' 1891, p. 274), but "the time is not yet!" Until we know more of the ornithology of the other great mountain ranges of Central Africa, of Kenia, of Ruwenzori, of the other mountains which probably occur in succession till the Peak of the Camaroons is reached, it is impossible to form a just comparison of their respective avifaunas; but it is certainly interesting to find that in his latest paper on the Birds of the Camaroons (J. f. O. 1892, pp. 177-195) Dr. Reichenow records several Uganda species (such as *Pedilorhynchus stuhlmanni* and *Lanius mackinnoni*), showing a still closer connection between the birds of Elgon and the Camaroons than was evidenced even by the presence of such allied species as *Trachyphonus purpuratus* and *T. elgonensis*, *Helioyuco cinereiceps* and *H. bonapartii*, and others.

XLVI.—Remarks on the correct Generic Name of the Linnets.

By THE EDITOR.

DR. SHARPE (Cat. Birds, xii. p. 235), Mr. Howard Saunders (Manual of British B. p. 179), and other British Ornithologists, apparently misled by Dr. Stejneger, have lately altered the generic name of the Linnets to *Acanthis*. But I cannot at all agree with Dr. Stejneger's arguments ('Auk,' i. p. 145) on this subject. Bechstein, in his 'Ornithologisches Taschenbuch' (1802), arranged the fourteen species of the genus *Fringilla* which he recognized in four subgenera, giving short characters (taken from the shape of the bill and from the nature of the food) to each of them. The list of his subgeneric sections and species is as follows:—

a. FRINGILLA.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. <i>F. cœlebs</i> . | 4. <i>F. montana</i> . |
| 2. <i>F. montifringilla</i> . | 5. <i>F. petronia</i> . |
| 3. <i>F. domestica</i> . | 6. <i>F. nivalis</i> . |

b. LINARIA.

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 7. <i>F. cannabina</i> . | 9. <i>F. flavirostris</i> . |
| 8. <i>F. citrinella</i> . | |

c. ACANTHIS.

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 10. <i>F. carduelis</i> . | 12. <i>F. linaria</i> . |
| 11. <i>F. spinus</i> . | 13. <i>F. flammea</i> . |

d. CALCARIUS.

- 14.
- F. lapponica*
- .

It is quite evident from this list, and from the subgeneric characters given by Bechstein to *Acanthis* ("mit einem dünnern, an den Seiten etwas zusammen gedrückten, und scharf und lang zugespitzten Schnabel"), that his *Acanthis* was intended for the Goldfinch (*F. carduelis*) and the Siskin (*F. spinus*), and that it is a perversion of Bechstein's intention to transfer it, as Dr. Stejneger proposes, to the Redpoll (*F. linaria*), although Bechstein unaccountably placed the latter in the same group. Bechstein's subgeneric term for the Linnets was evidently *Linaria*, not *Acanthis*. *Acanthis*, therefore, is simply a synonym of *Carduelis*, and should not be used for the Linnets. Indeed, Dr. Stejneger did not seek to apply it to the Linnets, but to the Redpolls (which he keeps separate from them), instead of *Ægiothus* of Cabanis.

Again, I may remark that *Linota*, as a generic term, appears to have been first published by Bonaparte in 1831 in the "Aggiunte e correzioni" to his 'Saggio di una Distribuzione metodica degli Animali vertebrati' (p. 141). This is seven years earlier than the 'Comparative List' (1838) quoted by Dr. Sharpe and others. The correct generic synonymy of the Linnets is therefore as follows :—

	Type.
<i>Linaria</i> , Bechst. Orn. Taschenb. i. p. 121 (1802)	<i>F. cannabina</i> .
<i>Cannabina</i> , Brehm, Isis, 1828, p. 1277 (1828)	<i>F. cannabina</i> .
<i>Linota</i> , Bp. Saggio Distr. met. Anim. p. 141 (1831)	<i>F. cannabina</i> .
<i>Ægiothus</i> , Cab. Mus. Hein. i. p. 161 (1851)	<i>F. linaria</i> .
<i>Linacanthus</i> , Des Murs, Enc. d' Hist. Nat., Ois. v. p. 303 (1854)	<i>F. linaria</i> .
<i>Agriospiza</i> , Sund. Meth. nat. Av. Tent. p. 23 (1872)	<i>F. flavirostris</i> .

It would appear, therefore, that *Linaria*, previously used in Botany, being rejected, *Cannabina* is the oldest name applicable to the Linnets, while those who separate the Redpolls from the Linnets should call the former group *Ægiothus*. At the same time, not being in favour of changing well-established terms on technical grounds, I think it unnecessary to alter the term *Linota*, which is used for the Linnets and Redpolls together in the B. O. U. List.

XLVII.—*Note on Nestor norfolcensis*, Pelz.

By H. B. TRISTRAM, D.D., F.R.S.

ON studying Count Salvadori's descriptions of *Nestor productus* and *N. norfolcensis* in the British Museum Catalogue of Birds (xx. pp. 9, 10), I was surprised to find that a mounted specimen which has been for twenty years in my possession corresponds with the description of *N. norfolcensis*, and not with that of *N. productus*. I had never thought before of comparing my bird with any other specimen. Unfortunately the most striking peculiarity of the Norfolk Island Nestor, the sulcated ridge on the upper mandible, is wanting in my specimen, for the sheath had long been lost before it came into my possession, but the core shows that the bill must have been more massive than in *N. productus*. The lower mandible is perfect. I have now examined the specimens of the Philip Island Parrot in the British Museum, and in the Norwich, Cambridge, and Derby (Liverpool) Museums. They all agree together in the points of distinction given by Latham and Pelzeln as separating *N. productus* from the Norfolk Island species, while my specimen has all the characters specified as belonging to *N. norfolcensis*. The tail is of a uniform brown, without the least trace of bars, the tail-feathers towards the base of their inner webs being pale red, but not toothed with red, as in the other species. The axillaries and under wing-coverts are white without a shade of yellow, and the inner webs of the wing-primaries are toothed with white. These last particulars are not given by Latham, but are mentioned